

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3092

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13266

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE

1. RECENTLY AN ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) OFFICIAL, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE PCI DELEGATION TO THE MEETINGS OF THE DRAFTING GROUP FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE (ECPC), INDICATED THAT THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO MOVEMENT IN BREAKING THE CURRENT IMPASSE IN THE PLANNING FOR THE ECPC. ALTHOUGH A FURTHER SESSION OF THE DRAFTING GROUP HAD BEEN ENVISIONED FOR BERLIN BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 10 AND 20, OUR SOURCE INDICATED THAT NO FIRM DATE HAD BEEN SET AS OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8. HE SUGGESTED THAT WHILE IT WOULD NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONVENE THE ECPC IN NOVEMBER AS HOPED FOR EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN IS RECEDING.

2. OUR SOURCE INDICATED THAT THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS REMAIN THE PRINCIPLE OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS IN DRAFTING A FINAL DOCUMENT

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SINCE THEY INSIST ON ONE WHICH WOULD HAVE A HEAVY IDEOLOGICAL

ORIENTATION. AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE DRAFTING GROUP IN JULY, OUR SOURCE FELT THAT THE SOVIETS AND THE EAST GERMANS EXHIBITED A WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON THE NATURE OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT, BUT THAT THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY CONCRETE MOVES WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING SOME GIVE IN THE FRENCH POSITION.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE YUGOSLAV AND ITALIAN PARTIES REITERATED THAT THEY SHARE A COMMON POSITION ON THE ECPC DURING A VISIT OF PCI SECRETARY PAJETTA TO BELGRADE ON AUGUST 30. THE ITALIANS WERE EXPECTING TO HOLD FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON THE ECPC WITH HERMAN AXEN OF THE EAST GERMAN SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY DURING HIS VISIT TO ITALY WHICH BEGAN ON SEPTEMBER 11. THE ITALIANS ARE ALSO EXPECTING TO HAVE A FURTHER ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS ON THE ECPC WITH THE SOVIETS IN MOSCOW AT AN UNSPECIFIED FUTURE DATE. THE LEVEL OF THE OFFICIAL LEADING THE PCI DELEGATION FOR THE CONSULTATIONS WILL DEPEND UPON WHOM THE SOVIETS DESIGNATE TO RECEIVE IT. VOLPE

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